



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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August 4, 2009

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE:

WM-3  
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TO: Each Supervisor  
FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*  
Director of Public Works

### RESPONSE TO MOTION OF JULY 21, 2009, AGENDA ITEM 66-B INCREASING THE USAGE OF RECLAIMED WATER

At the July 21, 2009, Board of Supervisors meeting, your Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich instructing the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Public Works to analyze the steps required to double the usage of reclaimed water for nondrinking purposes and to solicit input from the General Manager of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County concerning the usage of reclaimed water..

Beginning in 2006 and under your Board's direction, the Chief Executive Office, Internal Services (ISD), Park and Recreation (DPR), and Public Works Departments in cooperation with the Sanitation Districts and other local and State water agencies have responded to the region's dependence on diminishing imported water supply by partnering to develop a number of reports and plans detailing actions necessary to better manage the water resources of the County. Common to all these plans is the identification of reclaimed water as a viable source of local water supply. These plans resulted in a number recommended steps to meet and exceed your stated goal of doubling the use of reclaimed water for the region. Specifically, the plans establish a region wide goal of 100% increase in use of reclaimed water from the current use of 167,400 acre feet per year to 333,600 acre feet per year by 2030. With respect to County facilities use of reclaimed water, the current usage is 4,815 acre feet per year with a goal of all County owned golf courses, parks and green open space served with reclaimed water where feasible by 2020.

These reports and plans include:

- Policy Recommendations Report, Recycled Water Task Force (submitted to the Board on January 30, 2007, and adopted February 20, 2007). This report outlines recommendations from the Recycled Water Task Force on doubling the use of

reclaimed water Countywide by 2030 and also recommended establishing the Office of Water Recycling.

- Response to Governor Schwarzenegger's Statewide Drought Proclamation (June 26, 2008). This report describes the various water conservation efforts and accomplishments of Public Works and other County departments.
- Recycled Water, Converting County Facilities (February 3, 2009). This report identified County facilities, which could be converted to accept reclaimed water. A committee comprised of representatives from the Office of Water Recycling, DPR, ISD, and the Chief Executive Office submitted to your Board the report prioritizing County facilities for conversion to reclaimed water, estimating the costs for these conversions (based on current construction costs), and recommending a strategy for completing the conversions. The report categorizes County facilities into three priority groups based on the availability of reclaimed water to the facility as well as the potential amount of reclaimed water use at the facility. DPR and ISD are each administering the implementation of the conversion plan depending on ownership of the specific County facility.
- The Greater Los Angeles County, Santa Clara River, and Antelope Valley Integrated Water Resource Management Plans (IRWMP). Together these plans represent all the major watersheds and associated water agencies in the County of Los Angeles. The objective of these plans is to address the water resource needs of the region in an integrated and collaborative manner. The IRWMPs describe goals and strategies to address water supply demands including maximizing the use of reclaimed water. Each plan has been adopted by your Board and the County holds a seat in the governance structure of each planning area.

Examples of significant projects developed under these plans that address the use of reclaimed water include:

- Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP). Public Works is partnering with the Sanitation Districts on this project, which involves the construction of an advanced water treatment facility to purify 18,000 acre feet per year of tertiary treated effluent from the Sanitation Districts' San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant. Pipelines from the facility will convey the reclaimed water to spreading basins located south of Santa Fe Dam for replenishment of the Main San Gabriel Basin and to the spreading basins located south of Whittier Narrows Dam for

replenishment of the Central Basin. This project will help reduce the region's need for imported water.

- Regional Recycled Water Backbone System, Antelope Valley. The Waterworks District, Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Sanitation Districts, and Palmdale Water District are working together to design and construct a reclaimed water delivery system in the Antelope Valley.
- San Gabriel River Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds Pump Station and Pipeline. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Central Basin Municipal Water District, and the City of Pico Rivera are cooperatively designing and constructing a pipeline between the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Coastal Spreading Grounds to distribute stormwater, imported, and reclaimed water to cities and agencies throughout the southeast County of Los Angeles as well as infiltrating it in the Central Groundwater Basin.

In addition, in response to the emerging imported water-reliability issues, Public Works has recently reorganized the water-related divisions within the Department to create an Integrated Water Resource Branch. This branch includes the Flood Control District, Waterworks Districts, and the Office of Recycled Water. This reorganization will allow the County to be better positioned to partner with local, State, and Federal agencies to implement measures that effectively address the dynamic nature of water supply in our region. Through this integrated approach, we will better define our role and opportunities to partner resulting in solutions that provide maximum regional benefit and efficient use of limited resources.

Finally, given your Board's desire to identify and increase local water supplies through multibenefit recharge, reclaimed, and recycled water projects, it is recommended that your Board continue to support the IRWMP efforts developed for the Antelope Valley, Santa Clara River, and Greater Los Angeles County Basin.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Mark Pestrella, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4001 or [mpestrel@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:mpestrel@dpw.lacounty.gov).

RB:jtz

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cc: Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lari Sheehan)  
County Counsel  
✓ Executive Office